

Around Rap Around Rap Around Rap Are

George Monagan -- a Tribute

By JOHN DOSER

"We had a lot of fun, it was a lovely evening, I feel overwhelmed, to tell you the truth... it was just a big happy birthday party and everybody had a good time."

That's George Monagan's assessment of a dinner in his honor earlier this month at the Hilton Inn on the Campus.

The dinner, put together by Monagan's friends to celebrate his 25 years as a teacher, coach, and athletic director, also was held on his 50th birthday.

"There were a couple of hundred people there," Monagan says, "including old ballplayers, friends, etc., from the different schools I've taught at."

"I received a very nice plaque from the student association at the (Monroe Community) college, presented by the president of the student association; I got another one from friends and players, etc.; and then a group of people at the print shop at the college gave me a picture that someone had drawn up for the occasion," Monagan explains.

His friends and former players also chipped in and presented him a check for \$250.

Some of Monagan's former players are well known professionally in a variety of areas in the Rochester community today.

Sid Ludwig, for example, played for Monagan at Penfield High in 1950 and now teaches there; Tom Mooney and Joe Mower, also 1950 Penfield cagers, are now assistant Monroe County manager and physician, respectively.

Monagan, who graduated from West High and Ithaca College, has always been a Rochesterian and he's proud of it. "That's one of the things I like best," he says.

Father Ron Sams, SJ, who taught Latin at McQuaid when Monagan taught physical education and was athletic director there, was at the dinner and so was McQuaid head football coach Tom Seymour who spoke on behalf of Monagan's former colleagues at the Elmwood Avenue school.

Monagan has been the athletic director and department chairperson of health, physical education and recreation at Monroe Community College since it opened its doors in 1962.

He pioneered the creation and development of the A.A.S. degree program in recreation leadership, the first of its kind in the country. More than 150 colleges in the U.S. now have a similar program.

He's built an athletic dynasty at MCC which now includes 14 inter-collegiate sports programs. Last year no less than nine of those teams won conference or regional championships with several MCC players earning All-American honors in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA).

He was the first lay teacher hired at McQuaid in 1954 and developed the Knights' physical education department and interscholastic athletic program.

He instituted the first post-season Catholic school basketball tournament which grew into the Diocesan Basketball Tournament — now unnecessary since Catholic high schools participate on a temporary basis in public school sectional tournaments.

At MCC he was instrumental in starting the Banker's Trust Holiday Basketball Tournament which is one of the finest junior college tournaments in the country. He also helped organize the New York State Junior College Athletic Conference and served as its first president.

The MCC faculty, under Monagan's supervision, teaches physical education to the handicapped, men's and women's phys ed, criminal justice phys ed, health education, recreation supervision, traffic safety and cardiofitness.

MCC is an acknowledged leader in these areas and much of its track record is because of George Monagan.

At Penfield, his soccer teams won three sectionals and his basketball teams won two sectionals. His MCC basketball teams won three conference titles and 80 per cent of the games they played.

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"Bye, Bye Birdie"

Kathy Donnelly and Judy Nassar will play the female role in the St. Agnes production of "Bye, Bye Birdie". The play will be held at the school, East River Road, on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 21, 22 at 8 p.m., and Sunday, Nov. 23, 8 p.m. Tickets \$2 in advance, or \$2.50 at door.

Colonial Comedy Scheduled at Mooney

The Cardinal Mooney Drama Department will present "The Contrast" on Friday and Saturday nights, Nov. 21, 22 at 8:15 p.m. at the Mooney auditorium. Tickets are \$1.50. There are no reserved seats.

"The Contrast" which was written by a Vermont governor 11 years after the American Revolution is full of patriotic enthusiasm. It is also a satire on the social and personal decision that many Americans were

making at the time about their dreams, customs, and attitudes.

George Washington attended and enjoyed the play when it first opened in New York City in the 1780s.

The play was first written as a light, elegant comedy but under the direction of Brother Michael O'Palko it has been transformed into an all-American, flag-waving farce full of unexpected buffoonery.

If a man who was rich enough in this world's goods saw that one of his brothers was in need, but closed his heart to him, how could the love of God be living in him?



My children, our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active, only by this can we be certain that we are children of the truth. (1 Jn. 3:17)

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